



# • INFO memo - Dec. 31, 2003

City of Broken Arrow  
P.O. Box 610  
Broken Arrow, OK 74013  
[www.brokenarrowok.gov](http://www.brokenarrowok.gov)

Wayne Bishop, Communications Coordinator  
Phone: 259-8277 Fax: 251-6642

## **City Employees Take Holiday, Start New Year**

After a full work day on New Year's Eve, City of Broken Arrow employees will enjoy a holiday Thursday, Jan. 1, and then begin a new year Friday.

City Hall will be closed all day Thursday, but open during normal business hours Friday. The Community Center will also be closed Thursday, but open Friday and Saturday. The Amateur Basketball Association of BA is now playing its regular season games at the Center. The CC is closed on Sundays except when special basketball tournaments or events are scheduled, explained Melissa Parker, Interim Director of Recreational Division for Parks & Recreation.

The BA Police and Fire Departments will be on duty as usual, with an extra emphasis by the PD on drivers who may have been celebrating a bit too much.

There will be no curbside trash pickup Thursday. Crews will resume regular schedules Friday, the same as last week's holiday schedule. Because the Monday-Thursday residences were skipped last Thursday, sanitation crews were extremely busy Monday of this week. They were still picking up late Monday and Tuesday nights.

## **AEP Tree Trimming Begins in BA**

The Forestry Department of AEP/PSO has informed City officials that it will begin tree trimming around power lines and poles in January.

The project will continue through June, and is scheduled "to improve electrical reliability on identified feeders."

The main feeder in the older portion of Broken Arrow, said the letter, starts at the corner of Elm and Kenosha and goes east to Lynn Lane, then south to Houston. The work will cover an area of about one square mile, "although some work may be needed north and west of the square mile."

As described in the letter to the City, the work plan "calls for trees to be cleared 7 1/2 feet from the poleline on each side – from the center of the poles. All trees will be removed except for small ornamental trees or planted landscaping.

Side clearance will be 15 to 20 feet away from the primary voltage conductors on the poles or crossarms. Tree limbs overhanging the conductors will be removed.”

Secondary voltage conductors will be trimmed 5 to 15 feet. Tree removal in the poleline, and removal of overhanging limbs, will only be worked on secondary lines when practical – or when they have the potential of causing a future problem on the secondary voltage conductors, the letter said.

The work will be done by the Asplundh Tree Company, working under a contract with AEP/PSO. Employees of that company will be driving orange trucks and contract employees will carry full ID.

AEP/PSO said that notification of residents, beginning three weeks prior to the work, will be done by door knockers to fully explain the scope of the work.

## **Joint Meeting Scheduled Feb. 5**

The joint meeting of Broken Arrow’s City Council, Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment has been scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 5, 2004. It will start at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of the Community Center, 1600 S. Main in Central Park.

The Planning Commission had requested a joint meeting, and the three groups have been trying to work out schedules of all members the past few weeks.

Linda Fagundes, Executive Coordinator of Administration for the City, said that no agenda has yet been finalized for the meeting, but that one would be made public early in the week before the groups get together.

Broken Arrow’s City Council begins the new year with meetings on Jan. 5 (Monday) and again Jan. 20 (a Tuesday following the Martin Luther King holiday). The Planning Commission’s first meeting of 2004 will be Thursday, Jan. 8, with another Jan. 22. City Council meetings begin at 7 p.m. and Planning Commission meetings at 5 p.m. They are held in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

## **Citizens Praise BA Police Officers**

Broken Arrow Police Officers came in for plaudits from two citizens during recent days for their assistance in a pair of contrasting incidents.

Police Chief Todd Wuestewald saluted Tom Lewis after getting a letter from a resident about the officer’s work in the investigation of a truck burglary on Christmas day. Wuestewald said in his commendation to Lewis that the citizen “was very complimentary of your professionalism during your investigation of this incident. Although this was not a major crime, the concern that you displayed reflects positively on you and our Department. I want to thank you also for the extra effort and let you know that you are appreciated by those you serve and those you serve with.”

Also saluted by their Chief were Officers Larry Zehnder and John Daniels, Sgt. John Walls and Captain Carole Newell. They were cited in a letter from another citizen whose teenage son attempted suicide.

Wuestewald said that the mother's letter stated, "Without their help, we would be mourning the loss of a child instead of celebrating the holidays." She continued by writing, "All of the officers dealt with this horrible and unimaginable situation by preserving my son's dignity and by using respect and patience...They did everything exactly right and proved to my son that the police were here to help us when we needed it or when no one else was listening."

The Chief concluded in his praise of the officers by saying, "Stated simply, you saved a young life. In doing so, you bring credit to yourselves and our Police Department."

## **City Attorney Vanderburg Praised by OML**

Danny George, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Municipal League (OML), wrote to Broken Arrow City Attorney Michael Vanderburg in praise of his input at a recent workshop in Oklahoma City.

Vanderburg spoke to other municipal officials at a Utility Provider's Water Issues workshop.

"You helped significantly to inform municipal officials of the current status of water issues that will directly impact delivery of services in their communities," said George in his letter.

He continued by commenting that, "The evaluations for the workshop were overwhelmingly positive....Your informed participation helped make this workshop a success."

## **Sanitation Crews Will Pick Up Christmas Trees**

If you haven't already disposed of dead or dying Christmas trees from this past holiday, the solution is simple: leave it on your curbside along with other trash bags for pickup by the City's Sanitation Division.

There is no extra charge for the pickups.

Broken Arrow has no citywide tree burning after the holidays.